WHOSOEVER HOLDS THIS HAMMER, IF SHE BE WORTHY, SHALL POSSESS THE POWER OF

THE MIGHTY THOR

AARON • DAUTERMAN • WILSON

#706

MARVEL

WHEN DR. JANE FOSTER LIFTS THE MYSTIC HAMMER MJOLNIR, SHE IS TRANSFORMED INTO THE GODDESS OF THUNDER, THE MIGHTY THOR! HER ENEMIES ARE MANY, AS ASGARD DESCENDS FURTHER INTO CHAOS AND WAR THREATENS TO SPREAD THROUGHOUT THE TEN REALMS. YET HER GREATEST BATTLE WILL BE AGAINST A FAR MORE PERSONAL FOE: THE CANCER THAT IS KILLING HER MORTAL FORM...

MALEKITH AND HIS ALLIES ARE WAGING WAR ACROSS THE TEN REALMS, FORCING JANE TO NEGLECT HER CANCER TREATMENTS SO THAT THOR CAN DEFEND THE REALMS. ODINSON, DOCTOR STRANGE, FALCON AND ROZ SOLOMON UNITED IN AN INTERVENTION, EVENTUALLY CONVINCING THOR TO PUT ASIDE HER HAMMER. SHE WAS TOLD THAT EVEN ONE MORE TRANSFORMATION WOULD MEAN HER DEATH.

BUT MALEKITH'S PLOTS UNLEASHED THE MANGOG—THE MANIFESTED VENGEANCE OF A BILLION BILLION MURDERED SOULS. HE OBLITERATED THE RAINBOW BRIDGE AND TORE THROUGH ASGARDIA. FROM HER HOSPITAL BED, JANE FOSTER HEARD THE CALL. AND SHE ANSWERED WITH THUNDER.

WHEN THE MANGOG PROVED INDOMITABLE, THOR CHAINED THE BEAST TO HER HAMMER MJOLNIR AND THREW THEM BOTH INTO THE SUN. THE MANGOG IS DEAD.

AND WITHOUT HER HAMMER, NOW SO IS JANE.

AT THE GATES OF VALHALLA

DEDICATED TO MICHAEL W. WILSON

WRITER:
JASON AARON

ARTIST:
RUSSELL DAUTERMAN

COLOR ARTIST:
MATTHEW WILSON

LETTERER & PRODUCTION:
VC's JOE SABINO

COVER ARTIST:
RUSSELL DAUTERMAN

VARIANT COVER ARTISTS:
WALTER SIMONSON & LAURA MARTIN; MARCO CHECCHETTO; MARK BAGLEY, ANDREW HENNESSY & DAVE McCAIG

ASSOCIATE EDITOR: SARAH BRUNSTAD
EDITOR: WIL MOSS
EXECUTIVE EDITOR: TOM BREVOORT
EDITOR IN CHIEF: C.B. CEBULSKI
CHIEF CREATIVE OFFICER: JOE QUESADA
PRESIDENT: DAN BUCKLEY
EXEC. PRODUCER: ALAN FINE

THOR CREATED BY STAN LEE, LARRY LIEBER & JACK KIRBY

© 2018 Marvel Characters, Inc. All rights reserved. All characters featured in this issue and the distinctive names and likenesses thereof, and all related indicia are trademarks of Marvel Characters, Inc. No similarity between any of the names, characters, persons, and/or institutions in this magazine with those of any living or dead person or institution is intended, and any such similarity which may exist is purely coincidental. WWW.MARVEL.COM

NO! THIS CAN'T BE HOW IT ENDS! *HEALERS!*

WHERE ARE THE BOR-DAMNED HEALERS?!

JANE FOSTER.

JANE FOSTER OF MIDGARD WAS THE NEW THOR. I...HAD NO IDEA.

A MORTAL. A *DISEASED* ONE AT THAT--

--A SICKLY MORTAL JUST SAVED THE GODS OF ASGARD.

RGGHH!

HRRPH.

RRRRGGGGH!!! HELP HER! SOMEONE SAVE HER!

HEIMDALL, IS SHE TRULY...

EVEN BLINDED, I CAN SEE THE TRUTH, SIF. I AM AFRAID IT IS TOO LATE, DEAR SISTER.

"SHE IS GONE.

"THE GODDESS OF THUNDER IS *DEAD.*

"MAY SHE FIND HER WAY WITHOUT HASTE TO THE HALL OF THE HONORED SLAIN.

"MAY THE WARRIORS OF LEGEND WELCOME HER AS ONE OF THEIR OWN.

HELLO?

"MAY THE MEAD FLOW LIKE RIVERS THIS DAY AND ALL THE REST OF THE DAYS.

I...DON'T KNOW WHERE I AM. ASGARDIA WAS BURNING, AND... I WAS CHANGING, AND THEN... THEN I...

OH.

"MAY JANE FOSTER FEAST FOREVER IN *VALHALLA.*"

THE GATES OF VALHALLA. THAT...

THAT MEANS I'M...

YOU!

IT WAS YOU ALL ALONG!

ODIN...?

YOU STOLE THE HAMMER!

YOU ROBBED MY SON OF HIS BIRTHRIGHT! *HIS VERY NAME!*

YOU'VE BEEN THE SOURCE OF ALL MY TROUBLES FOR MONTHS NOW!!!

THAT'S NOT EXACTLY HOW IT--

YOU TURNED ALL OF ASGARD AGAINST ME!

ACTUALLY, *YOU* DID THAT ALL BY YOUR--

YOU EVEN DARED LAY YOUR HANDS AND HAMMER UPON ME, THE HOLY ALL-FATHER, IN PERSONAL COMBAT!

NOW *THAT*...I DID DO.

AND I'D DO IT ALL AG--

YOU...!

YOU...

...DEFEATED THE MANGOG.

WHEN NO ONE ELSE IN ALL THE HEAVENS COULD STAND BEFORE HIS WRATH.

WHEN ALL HOPE WAS LOST.

YOU FOUGHT ON.

EVEN THOUGH IT COST YOU YOUR LIFE.

EVERYONE I KNOW AND LOVE WOULD BE DEAD IF IT WEREN'T FOR YOU.

MY WIFE. MY SON. MY SUBJECTS. EVEN ME.

YOU FOUGHT UNTIL YOUR VERY LAST BREATH TO SAVE THE GODS OF ASGARD.

YOU DIED A GLORIOUS DEATH.

JANE FOSTER OF MIDGARD. YOU HAVE EARNED YOUR PLACE AMONG THE MOST VENERATED OF FALLEN WARRIORS.

YOUR ETERNAL REWARD AWAITS.

IT'S... BEAUTIFUL.

WHY DO YOU HESITATE? A GREAT FEAST IS ABOUT TO BEGIN, IN YOUR HONOR.

BE NOT AFRAID. YOU HAVE NOTHING MORE TO FEAR FROM ME OR ANYONE ELSE EVER AGAIN.

ALL WHO FALL VALIANTLY IN BATTLE ARE CHILDREN OF ODIN. SO TELL ME...

WHAT TROUBLES THEE, DAUGHTER JANE?

I... I WASN'T READY.

WELCOME TO VALHALLA.

MIGHTY THOR.

I WASN'T READY TO DIE.

IT'S NO USE.

THERE IS STILL NO PULSE. NO SIGN OF BREATHING.

EVEN OUR HEALING SPELLS CANNOT REVIVE HER.

JANE FOSTER'S MORTAL BODY WAS ALREADY SO FRAIL AND SICKLY. NOW I FEAR SHE IS SIMPLY... *SPENT.*

I HAVE NEVER SEEN A STELLAR SQUALL QUITE LIKE THIS ONE. IT THREATENS TO BLOW THIS ENTIRE MOON APART.

EVEN WHEN I HAD EYES, DEAR SISTER, I NEVER BEHELD SUCH A STORM. BUT I HAVE HEARD TELL OF ONE.

THE GOD TEMPEST. *THE MOTHER STORM.*

WHICH MEANS THE LEGEND MUST BE TRUE.

THE ANCIENT SUPER-STORM TRULY WAS THE HEART OF *MJOLNIR.*

WITH THE HAMMER NOW DESTROYED IN THE SUN, THE TEMPEST HAS BEEN UNLEASHED.

AND IT WOULD APPEAR TO BE *ANGRY.*

'TIS NOT THE ONLY ONE.

GGRRRGHH!

I SAY THEE NAY!!!

SON! CALM THYSELF!

I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING, BUT YOU CANNOT CHANNEL SUCH A STORM! IT'S TOO STRONG! IT WOULD--

DOWN HERE, YOU BASTARD CYCLONE!

SHOW ME WHY THEY CALL YOU THE GOD TEMPEST!!!

FARR

NO!

GET AWAY FROM HER, YOU USELESS HEALERS! SHE CAN'T BE DEAD!

SHE WAS THE MIGHTY THOR!

SHE HAS *THUNDER* IN HER VEINS!

KA-KOOM

COME, JANE FOSTER. NEVER HAVE YOU TASTED SUCH *MEAD* AS WHAT AWAITS YOU IN VALHALLA.

BELIEVE ME, IT IS WORTH WHATEVER AGONIES YOU SUFFERED WHILE DYING.

AND YOU CAN DRINK YOUR FILL FOR ALL ETERNITY. THE GREATEST WARRIORS FROM THROUGHOUT HISTORY ARE ALL INSIDE, WAITING TO TOAST YOU.

THE *VALKYRIES* WILL SHOW YOU THE WAY.

LADY JANE?

'TIS NOT EASY TO LET GO. I UNDERSTAND. I'VE DIED A FEW TIMES MYSELF.

BUT YOU GAVE YOUR ALL, MY LADY. YOU OWE NOTHING MORE TO THE LIVING.

TAKE YOUR PLACE AMONG THE DEAD. CLAIM YOUR WELL-EARNED REWARD.

I KNOW...I SHOULD *WANT* TO. TO BE DONE WITH THE PAIN. BUT...

BUT THERE'S SOMETHING... HOLDING ME BACK. ALMOST LIKE...

GARRGGGHH!!!

JANE?!

ODINSON, DON'T DO THIS! LET HER DEPART IN PEACE! PLEASE, YOU CANNOT--

GET BACK!

GAAARGHH!!

WHAT IS THIS? HOW ARE YOU UNDER *ATTACK* IN THE LAND OF THE DEAD?

WHO IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THIS BLASPHEMY?!

YES... I SEE THE TRUTH NOW. EVEN FROM ACROSS THE VOID.

IT'S THE ***GOD TEMPEST*** THAT CLINGS TO YOU, MY LADY. THE GREAT STORM HAS BEEN FREED FROM ITS URU PRISON.

BUT SOMETHING TELLS ME...

"...THE STORM DOES NOT ACT ALONE."

CHECK HER AGAIN! DO IT!

STILL NO PULSE, MY LORD.

SON...

THEN GET BACK!

MJOLNIR

STILL NOTHING. MY LORD, SHE'S SIMPLY...

BACK!

NOTHING. STILL NOTHING.

THEN... BACK. GET BACK.

MY LORD, YOUR ARM IS *MELTING*. EVEN YOU CANNOT CONTROL POWER SUCH AS--

I SAID... GET BACK. OR I'LL...

MY SON.

THEY SPEAK THE *TRUTH*.

YOU CANNOT CONTROL THE POWERS OF THE GOD TEMPEST.

NO ONE GOD EVER COULD.

BUT LUCKILY FOR LADY JANE...

...THERE IS MORE THAN ONE OF US.

FATHER?

LIFE.

LIFE IS TERRIFYING.

AND GOD-AWFUL PAINFUL.

AND HARD AS ALL HELL, EVEN AT THE BEST OF TIMES. AND THIS...

THIS PLACE FEELS LIKE HOME. LIKE COMFORT. SO...

WHY CAN'T I TAKE THAT STEP? WHY CAN'T I LET GO OF THE PAIN?

I GUESS BECAUSE...I KNOW I HAD MORE TO GIVE.

BECAUSE I WASN'T DONE WRITING MY STORY.

BECAUSE I WISH I'D HAD JUST ONE MORE... PEAL OF THUNDER. JUST...

"...JUST ONE LAST *KRAKKAKOOOOM.*"

IS IT TOO LATE, FATHER?! HAVE WE LOST HER?!

SHE'S STANDING AT THE GATES OF VALHALLA, REFUSING TO CROSS OVER!

I'VE SEEN THE TRUTH IN HER VERY SOUL, MY SON! SHE'S CONVINCED HER STORY WAS NOT YET FINISHED!

LET US SEE IF SHE'S RIGHT!

IN THE NAME OF ASGARD!

KRAKKA

IN THE NAME OF THOR!

HHHHH--

And so the mighty winds died. And the great lightning faded.

And suddenly the fiercest storm that had ever raged was nothing more than a soothing breeze.

They called it the God Tempest. The mother of storms.

Its gales had shaped creation itself. Its thunder had rattled the heavens.

All agreed...they would never see its like again.

DAYS LATER.
OLD ASGARD.

WELL... WHAT DO YOU THINK?

I THINK IT'S A BROKEN, RUINED OLD MESS THAT HAS CLEARLY SEEN BETTER DAYS. IN OTHER WORDS...

IT'S A PRETTY PERFECT HOME FOR *ALL* OF US THESE DAYS.

OH, NAY. NOT FOR YOU.

THIS IS THE LAND WHERE I WAS BORN. HERE, IN TIME, THE GODS WILL REBUILD.

BUT ***YOU*** ARE GOING BACK TO ***MIDGARD*** ON THE NEXT AVAILABLE BOAT, JANE FOSTER. BACK TO THE ***HOSPITAL*** WHERE YOU BELONG.

RELAX, IT'S JUST A VISIT. BELIEVE IT OR NOT, I'M FINALLY BEING A GOOD PATIENT.

STRAIGHT
OUTTA
CHEMO

I'VE ALREADY STARTED MY TREATMENTS AND HAVEN'T MISSED ONE YET. ROZ AND YOUR MOTHER SEE TO THAT.

TURNS OUT COMING BACK FROM THE DEAD IS EASIER THAN STAYING ALIVE. BUT THE *CANCER* NOW HAS MY *UNDIVIDED* ATTENTION, WHETHER I LIKE IT OR NOT.

WHAT WITHOUT THE *HAMMER* AROUND TO...

ODINSON, I'M SO SORRY. I SHOULDN'T HAVE SAID THAT.

I KNOW SOME WOUNDS HEAL FASTER THAN OTHERS.

I'M AFRAID 'TWAS EASIER TO GET USED TO LOSING AN *ARM* THAN IT WILL BE THE HAMMER.

I WISH THERE'D BEEN ANOTHER WAY.

IT WAS A WORTHY DEATH FOR MJOLNIR. TOGETHER YOU SAVED THE GODS. YOU SAVED MY BELOVED FRIEND JANE FOSTER.

IT WAS A WORTHY DEATH FOR THE MIGHTY THOR.

THOR CAN'T DIE, SON OF ODIN.

NOT NOW. NOT EVER.

THAT'S WHY I'VE COME.

AS YOU SAID, NONE OF US ARE WHAT WE ONCE WERE, MY LADY.

WITH MJOLNIR NO MORE, I WILL EVER BE THE *UNWORTHY* PRINCE OF ASGARD. I WILL MAKE MY PEACE WITH THAT.

THE AGE OF THOR HAS *ENDED.*

THE AGE OF THOR WILL OUTLAST THE STARS.

WHEN THE *BIFROST* WAS DESTROYED, WE WERE CUT OFF FROM THE REST OF THE REALMS. BUT *MALEKITH* WASN'T.

THOSE REALMS ARE STILL AT WAR. AND THEIR MIGHTIEST PROTECTOR CANNOT ABANDON THEM.

HERE, TAKE THIS.

UUGH. ZOUNDS.

SO SMALL, BUT SO IMPOSSIBLY *HEAVY.* WHAT...

...

IS *THIS...*

YES.

IT'S A PIECE OF MJOLNIR. FALLEN FROM THE SUN. I FOUND IT ON THE MOON, AFTER YOU BROUGHT ME BACK. AS FAR AS I KNOW, IT'S ALL THAT REMAINS OF THE HAMMER.

SUCH A SMALL PIECE. AND I CAN...*BARELY* HOLD IT.

THAT TELLS ME I COULD *NEVER* LIFT THE ENTIRE HAMMER. THAT I'M STILL NOT...

THE HAMMER MADE ME THE THUNDERER. BUT NOT YOU. *YOU* DID THAT YOURSELF.

ODINSON, LOOK AT ME...

"THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A THOR."

THAT'S WHAT I SAID RIGHT BEFORE I LIFTED MJOLNIR AND WAS TRANSFORMED FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

I WAS HONORED TO CARRY THAT MANTLE FOR A WHILE. HONORED THAT YOU BESTOWED UPON ME YOUR OWN NAME.

BUT IT'S TIME YOU *RECLAIMED* WHO YOU ARE.

THERE MUST ALWAYS BE A THOR.

AND NOW... ONCE AGAIN... IT MUST BE *YOU.*

BUT... I...

I SHOWED YOU WHAT I COULD BE WITH THAT HAMMER IN MY HAND.

NOW SHOW ME WHAT YOU CAN BE *WITHOUT* IT. SHOW US ALL.

I DO HAVE...A FEW IDEAS.

GODS, WOULD IT BE GREAT TO *FLY* AGAIN.

I LOVE YOU, JANE FOSTER.

YOU ARE MORE A GOD THAN I COULD EVER BE.

AND YOU'VE GOT MORE HUMANITY THAN MOST HUMANS I KNOW.

I LOVE YOU, TOO.

THOR.

HOGUN! WHERE ARE THOSE *DWARVES?!* AND ARE ANY OF THEM *BLACKSMITHS?!*

WE MURDER DWARVES?

NO, THORI, WE'VE *HAMMERS* TO BUILD!

VERY MANY HAMMERS!

THORS AND THEIR HAMMERS.

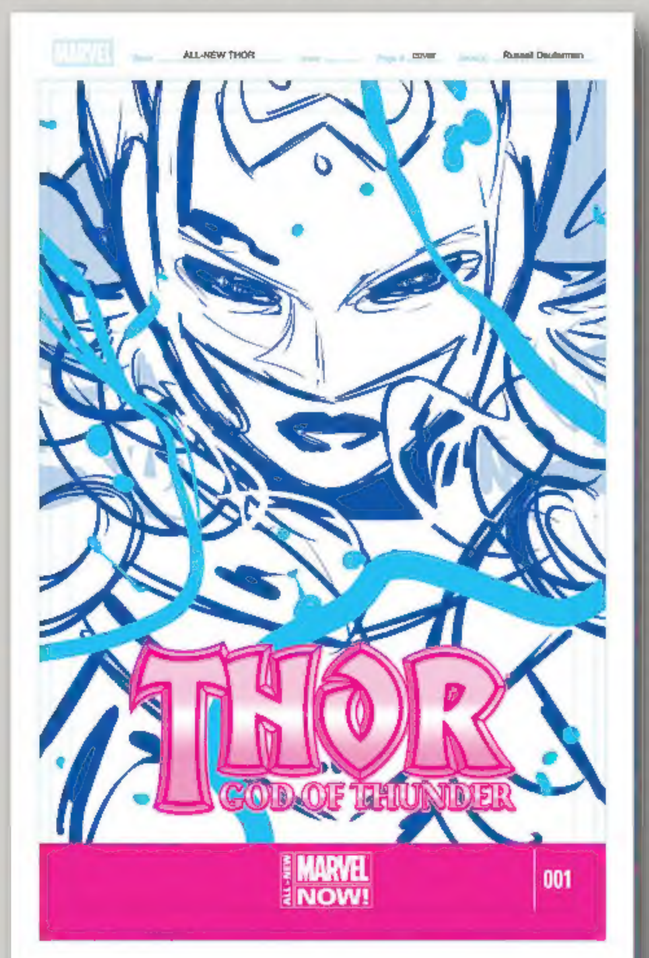
I GET IT NOW.

I'LL MISS THE FLYING, TOO.

THOUGH I SUPPOSE THE SKIES AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE.

AND NEITHER AM *I*.

THE END.



This is the first drawing I did of Jane: a layout for what was originally just a variant cover. I never thought that nearly four years after drawing this, I'd be sitting here in a Jane Thor T-shirt, with a Jane Thor Funko figure on my desk, writing a letter to commemorate the last issue of Jane's long-running series.

That variant cover turned into the main cover and a new job for me. I thought the book would be a good fit (I love fantasy and mythology, billowing capes and flowing hair!), but I was still pretty nervous. I'd just started working for Marvel a few months before, I'd just gotten married--there was a lot of new going on. Plus, Jason's GOD OF THUNDER was one of my favorite comics, and following Esad's art had me intimidated. I wondered if our book would be as good, if it would sell, if anyone would care about this new Thor. And then I see Whoopi Goldberg pointing to my art on *The View.* And then Thor's identity is revealed and I start getting messages from readers saying how much Jane means to them.

I saved a screengrab of Whoopi pointing to the issue #1 cover. In the same folder, I've saved your messages. Thank you for sharing your stories about how you relate to Jane's struggle, or just for writing to say how much you like the book. I know we put you through the emotional wringer with this arc (sorry!), but I hope we did right by you with the finale. I hope we did Jane justice.

This is my last THOR issue, and I'll miss drawing Jane. But I'm thrilled that she has a complete story told by the same creative team (with some fantastic guests). I'm incredibly proud of the work everyone's done. Thank you to Jason for the brilliant ideas, amazing writing and thoughtful scripts, to Matt for the smart and unbelievably gorgeous colors, to Joe for stylishly making everything flow together, to Sarah (and past editors Jon Moisan, Charles Beacham and Chris Robinson!) for steering the ship so well, and to Wil for the guidance, thoughtfulness and opportunity.

I really lucked out, getting to work with some of the absolute best. Here's hoping that down the line, the rainbow bridge gets fixed and we all get teleported back to Asgard together.

In the meantime, I'm excited to see where Jason takes his amazing Thor saga, and I'm sure I'll be drooling over Mike del Mundo's art for it. I have more with Marvel in the pipeline, and I'll share as soon as I can.

Drawing THOR became an absolute dream project, one that will always mean the world to me. Thank you all so much for supporting Jane (and me, and the whole team)!

KRAKKAKOOOOM!
Russell

I never expected all this.

Before Jane became Thor, I'd never had fans come up to me in tears at signings, relating stories of their loved ones who'd passed or of their own battles with cancer.

Before Jane, I'd never had so many people screaming at me on Twitter, so enraged, oftentimes over a book they hadn't even read.

I'd never had a character I helped shape explode so epically, becoming toys and statues and cosplay at every con I've attended since.

Before Jane, I'd never cried while writing a script.

I've never been as emotionally invested in a super hero as I've been in her. And I've never felt such a profound emotional response from the fans as what Jane has generated.

I never imagined she'd become this important to so many people, including myself.

It all started when then-EIC Axel Alonso called and offered me the chance to relaunch THOR after my GOD OF THUNDER run. We agreed that it'd be a great opportunity to have someone else carry the mantle. Since I first took over the character, I knew at some point I wanted to do a Beta Ray Bill sorta story, where Thor's hammer would change hands. And for a while I'd had a vague idea about it being Thor's stepmom Freyja who'd eventually wield Mjolnir.

But as soon as we talked about the relaunch, I knew it had to be Jane.

I'd already shown that Jane was dealing with breast cancer. And as soon as I imagined her becoming Thor, the entire story clicked into place, right up through these last few issues, in a way that stories don't often do, not for me at least, not without a lot of pushing and pulling.

For years, I both eagerly awaited and thoroughly dreaded having to write this "Death of Thor" story. And for the last few months, I've felt the same way every single time I'd get a new email from Russell.

Not enough can be said about what Russell Dauterman and Matthew Wilson have accomplished together on this series. They have brought Jane to life and made her entire world sing and explode and burn in ways that should be remembered and studied and idolized for many eons to come. I cannot possibly thank them enough for all their amazing work, but I'll gladly spend the rest of my mortal life attempting to do so. In other words, the drinks are always on me, boys.

And those thanks and free drinks also go out to everyone else who's worked on the series, including letterer Joe Sabino and all the stellar guest artists, cover artists and assistant editors along the way. And even bigger thanks to editor Wil Moss, who has some of the best artistic tastes and creative instincts of any editor I've ever known. Another round of mead for all of you!

But most especially, thanks to you, the readers. For embracing Jane the way you have. For making her so much a part of your own lives. For making this entire run one of the most rewarding creative and emotional experiences of my entire life.

I'll never forget this Thor. And I'll never forget all of you. And I hope we'll all see each other again, in some other thunderous stories down the road.

Stay worthy.
Jason Aaron
KC, March

NEXT:

Don't miss MIGHTY THOR: AT THE GATES OF VALHALLA #1, a tribute to Jane's time as Thor and also a glimpse of things to come! Written by Jason Aaron and drawn by Jen Bartel and Ramón Pérez, this special one-shot will be on sale May 16th!

And then on June 13th, artist Mike del Mundo joins Jason for THOR #1 as Odinson takes on the mantle of Thor once again!

ZONE